

Submitter: Amelia Lukas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SCR23

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs,

I write today in strong support of SCR 23, which would establish a sister state relationship between Oregon and Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine. At a time when global partnerships matter more than ever, this resolution represents a powerful step toward deepening economic ties, fostering cultural exchange, and reaffirming Oregon's steadfast commitment to democracy and international cooperation.

Cherkasy Oblast is a vital economic and cultural hub in Ukraine, home to leading industries in agriculture, chemical manufacturing, machine engineering, and pharmaceuticals. Oregon and Cherkasy share a strong agricultural foundation, and by forging this partnership, we create new opportunities for collaboration in sustainable farming, trade, and technological innovation. With Ukraine's economy under immense strain, Oregon can play a meaningful role in supporting its recovery while also expanding business opportunities for our state.

Sister state relationships have a proven track record of success, fostering long-term collaboration in trade, education, and cultural exchange. Oregon's existing partnerships—including those with Taiwan, Fujian Province in China, and Toyama Prefecture in Japan—have led to economic growth, academic partnerships, and cross-cultural understanding that benefit both regions. These relationships strengthen international diplomacy at the state level, demonstrating how local connections can have a profound global impact. A sister state agreement with Cherkasy Oblast would build on this legacy, creating new opportunities for Oregonians while standing in solidarity with Ukraine at a critical moment in its history.

But this partnership is about more than economics—it is about people. The bonds between our communities will be strengthened through student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations, and cultural programs that connect Oregonians and Ukrainians in meaningful, lasting ways. Despite the critical role the United States has played in supporting Ukraine, many Americans have never had the chance to experience Ukraine firsthand, just as many Ukrainians know the U.S. only through headlines. A sister state relationship bridges that gap, fostering greater understanding and ensuring that our support is not just political, but deeply personal.

Cherkasy's historical and cultural significance—boasting thousands of heritage sites

and sacred landmarks—offers a wealth of opportunities for artistic and academic collaboration. By engaging with this rich history and vibrant cultural landscape, we strengthen not only our diplomatic ties but also our shared appreciation for resilience, creativity, and human connection.

Oregon has long stood for democracy, human rights, and global engagement. Supporting SCR 23 is a reflection of those values and a demonstration of our leadership in building a more connected and cooperative world. I urge you to vote in favor of this resolution and help Oregon stand firmly with the people of Ukraine.

Sincerely,
Amelia Lukas